

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application, as presently amended and in light of the following discussion, is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, 26-33, and 35-50 are pending. Claim 30 is amended to incorporate the features of dependent Claim 34, and Claim 34 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 35 and 37 are amended to address informalities. Claims 43-50 are newly added and correspond to the features recited in original Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 12, and 14, respectively. No new matter is added.

In the outstanding Office Action, Claims 30-33, 35, and 38-40 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as anticipated by Martin (U.S. Patent No. 4,280,185, herein "Martin"). Claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, and 28-29 were allowed. Claims 26-27, 34, 36-37, and 41-42 were indicated as reciting allowable subject matter.

Applicants acknowledge with appreciation the allowance of Claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, and 28-29 and the indication that Claims 26-27, 34, 36-37, and 41-42 recite allowable subject matter.

Regarding the rejection of Claims 30-33, 35, 38, 39, and 40 as anticipated by Martin, that rejection is respectfully traversed by the present response. Independent Claim 30 is amended to incorporate all of the features of now canceled dependent Claim 34, indicated in the outstanding Office Action as reciting allowable subject matter. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the rejection of independent Claim 30 is overcome.

Claims 31-33, 35, and 38-40 depend, directly or indirectly, from amended independent Claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that Claims 31-33, 35, and 38-40 patentably distinguish over Martin for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 30.

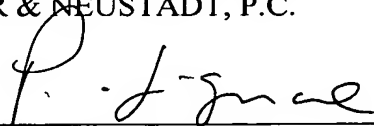
Newly added Claims 43-50 depend from amended Claim 30. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that newly added Claims 43-50 patentably distinguish over Martin for at least the same reasons as amended independent Claim 30. As Claims 43-50 recite features corresponding to the features recited in original Claims 2, 4-6, 8, 11, 12, and 14, respectively, Applicants respectfully submit that the addition of new Claims 43-50 raises no new issues, and Applicants respectfully request that newly added Claims 43-50 be entered.

Consequently, in view of the present amendment, no further issues are believed to be outstanding in the present application, and the present application is believed to be in condition for formal allowance. A Notice of Allowance for Claims 1-3, 10-13, 15, 16, 18-20, 22, 26-33, and 35-50 is earnestly solicited.

Should Examiner Benson deem that any further action is necessary to place this application in even better form for allowance, he is encouraged to contact Applicants' undersigned representatives at the below listed telephone number.

Respectfully submitted,

OBLON, SPIVAK, McCLELLAND,  
MAIER & NEUSTADT, P.C.



Philippe J.C. Signore, Ph.D.  
Attorney of Record  
Registration No. 43,922

Customer Number

**22850**

Tel: (703) 413-3000  
Fax: (703) 413 -2220  
(OSMMN 06/04)